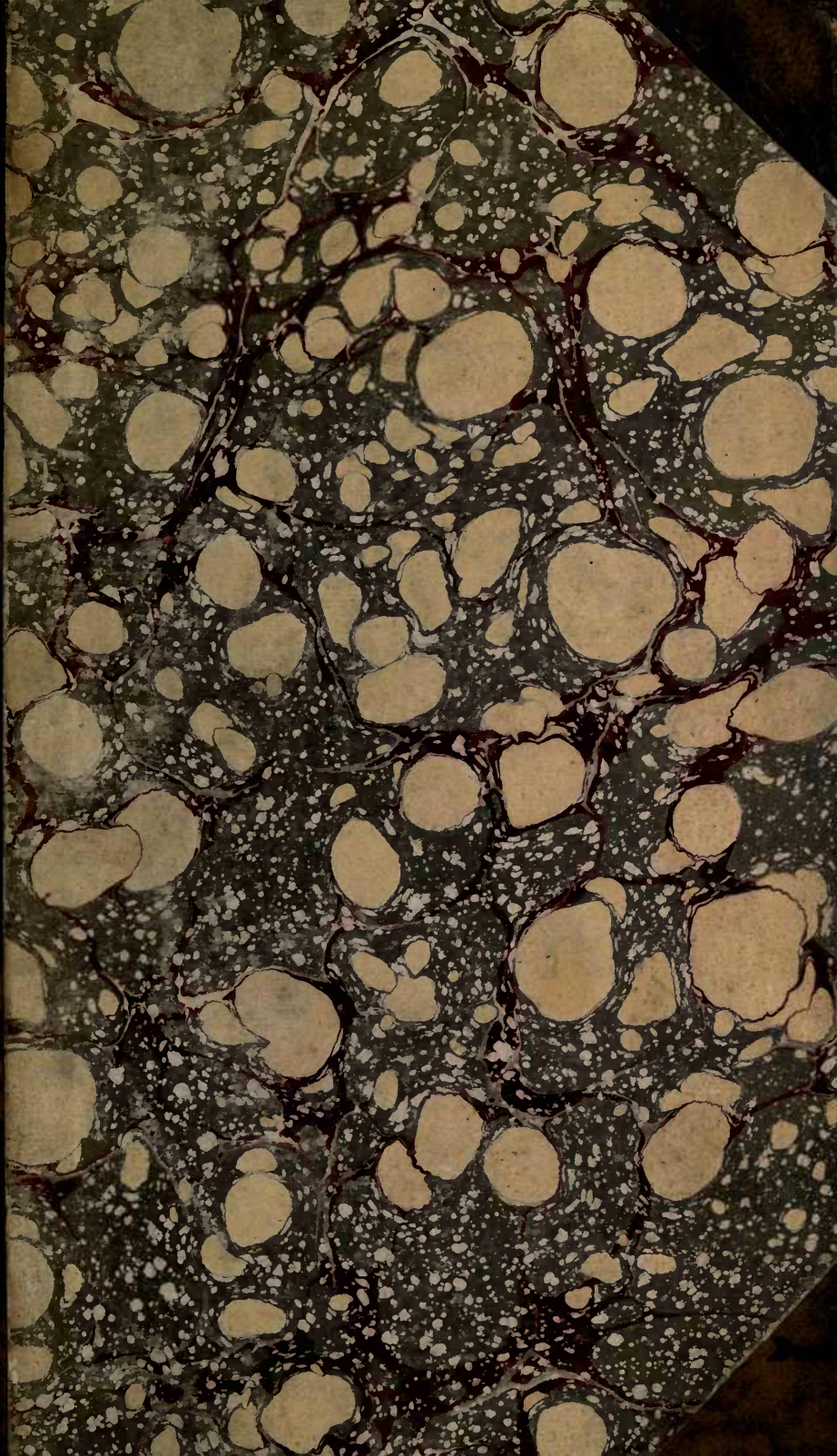


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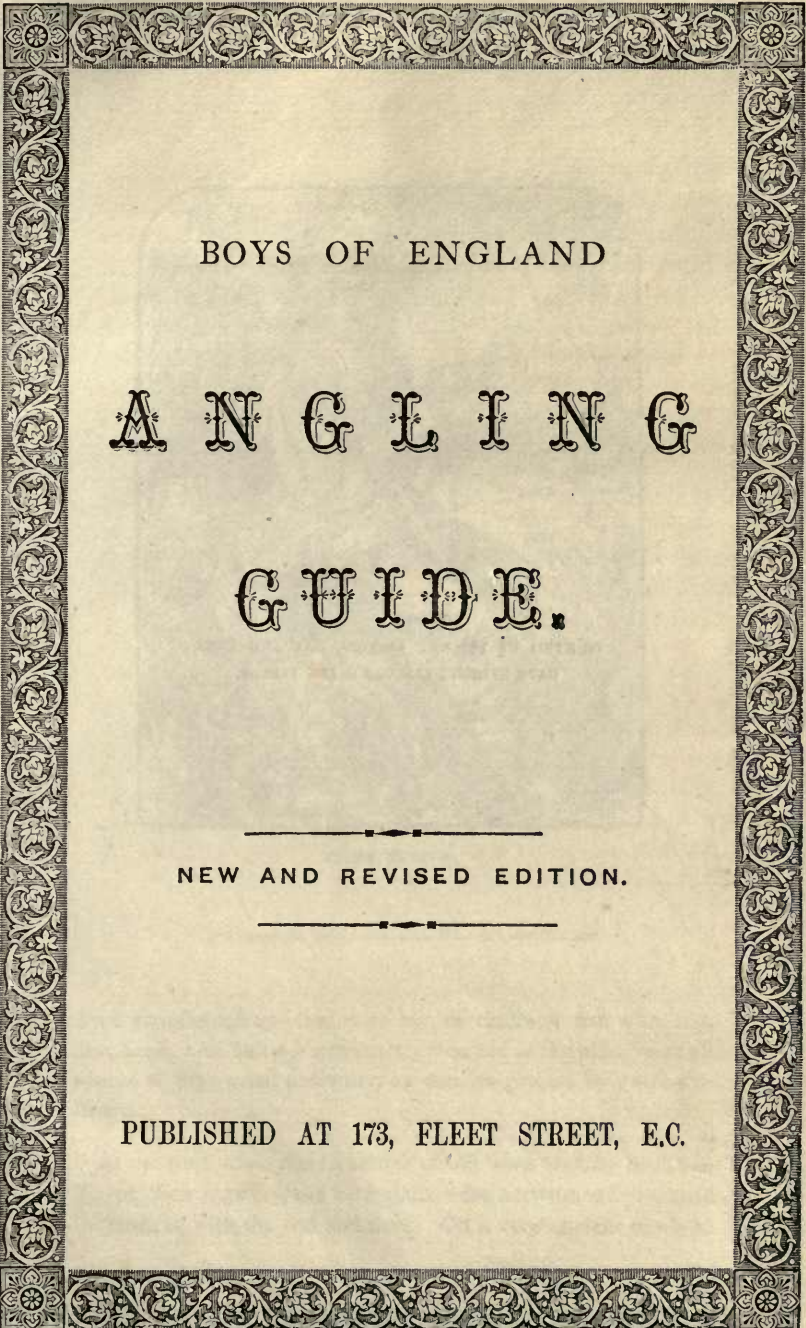
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BOYS OF ENGLAND

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GUIDE.

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NEW AND REVISED EDITION.

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PUBLISHED AT 173, FLEET STREET, E.C.

BOYS OF ENGLAND

ANGELING

GUIDE.

LONDON :

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NEW AND REVISED EDITION.

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PUBLISHED AT THE FLEET STREET, E.C.





ISAAC WALTON.

THE art of Angling—that is to say, of catching fish with rod, line, hook, and bait—if not exactly “as old as the hills,” is at all events of very great antiquity, as can be proved by good evidence.

At the time when the Israelites of old were making bricks in Egypt, their masters, the Egyptians, were accustomed to amuse themselves with the rod and line. On a very ancient tomb at

Thebes, supposed to date from the time of the Pharaohs, is sculptured the figure of an Egyptian gentleman seated on a chair, and fishing with a rod which has two lines attached to it. Another ancient tomb, at Beni Hassan, has a carving of a man with a rod and line, in the act of jerking a fish out of the water, while another man seated on the ground has caught a fish with a hook and line only, being probably too poor to afford the luxury of a rod. Another carving on a tomb near the Pyramids shows a carving of men opening fish to preserve them; *kippering* them, in fact, as haddocks are kippered nowadays.

The ruined city of Nineveh has at least as great an antiquity as most of the Egyptian monuments, and in the Nineveh marbles, brought from that ancient place to the British Museum, are representations of fishermen fishing with rods and lines.

Who introduced the art of angling into England is not known, but the first person to write upon the subject, so far as is known, was a noble lady, Dame Juliana Berners, who was for some time prioress of Sopewell Nunnery, near St. Albans. Her book, which treats not only of fishing, but of hunting, hawking, and other field sports, is *supposed* to have been printed at St. Albans in 1481; and it is certain that an edition of it was printed at London in the year 1496.

Since that time many hundreds of books on Angling have been written, but no author on the subject ever gained the popularity of old Izaak Walton, who was born at Stafford about a hundred years after Dame Berners wrote her book (he was born on the 9th of August, 1593), and who for many years was proprietor of a hosier's and mercer's shop in Fleet Street, on the same side of the way, and not many doors from the place where *The Boys of England* is now published.

Izaak, like some people now employed about Fleet Street,



was very fond of going when he could spare the time, to Tottenham, Waltham, and other places on the banks of the River Lea, to have a quiet day's fishing; and he has written some charming descriptions of that river and the surrounding country as it appeared two hundred and fifty years ago. Izaak eventually retired from business and went to live at Winchester, where there is a famous river for trout-fishing; and when, at a good old age, he brought his gentle, blameless life to a close, he was buried in the fine old cathedral of the quiet, peaceful city where he died.

The Father of Angling, as Izaak is called, will always be gratefully remembered by all his disciples.

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## Of fishing Tackle.

The Angling Art is usually divided into three departments, namely:—

1. **BOTTOM FISHING**—by which we understand capturing with worms, gentles, pastes, and such like baits, the fish that seek their food at or near the bottom of the river or pond they inhabit. In this kind of fishing, in addition to the rod, line, and hook, a float is usually employed to keep the bait raised just above the bottom of the water, and also to let the angler know when a fish is biting.

2. **MIDWATER FISHING.**—This includes trolling for such fish as pike, &c., spinning for salmon, trout, pike, perch, &c. In this kind of fishing the bait is either a real fish or some artificial substance contrived to look like one. The bait is moved



rapidly in the water, and arouses the predatory instincts of the larger fish, which come to grief on the hooks with which the bait is armed.

3. FLY FISHING.—In this case the hook is disguised with fragments of feather, fur, and other substances till it resembles a large insect. This artificial fly being thrown upon the stream and drawn down or across it, is mistaken by the fish for a fly and swallowed under that mistake, with the result that so often follows when a fish persists in swallowing a barbed steel hook.

RODS.—Each kind of fishing as above described requires a different kind of rod and line. For bottom fishing for roach, dace, bream, and such fish, a light but rather stiff rod is used, fifteen feet or more in length; some fishers use poles twenty feet long. For pike fishing, trolling, &c., a shorter and stronger rod is used—say ten, twelve, or fourteen feet long, with a few very strong and large upright rings for the line to run through. For fly fishing a very flexible rod is required, for it is by the flexibility of the rod that the line and fly are cast far out on the water. A trout fly-rod to be used with one hand should not measure more than about twelve feet, or its use is very fatiguing to the arm. The salmon rod used for throwing a fly on large rivers is wielded with both hands, and measures seventeen or even twenty feet.

These rods are generally in four, five, or more joints or pieces fitting together in sockets. But our modern rod makers have contrived what they call a "general rod," which has tops of different degrees of elasticity, thus fitting it for either kind of fishing. The extra tops are carried inside the lower joint or "butt" of the rod, which is hollowed out for the purpose, or in the handle of the landing net, which is similarly hollowed.

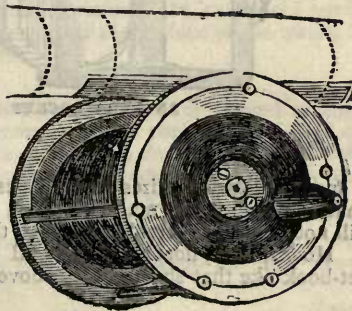
LINEs are as various in their character as the rods. For a fish that readily yields himself a captive without much struggling it is evident that the finer the line the less chance there is of his seeing it, and therefore the more likely is he to take the tempting bait he finds so close to his nose. But a salmon or a pike of twenty pounds weight is a powerful beast, and must be held by a strong line.

And the line must be considered as consisting of two parts: the winch or reel line, which is that which runs through the rings on the rod. This is generally a mixture of horsehair and silk, or silk only; though of late years some cotton-spun lines

have been introduced which seem to answer pretty well. Some winch-lines are made tapering, the end that is attached to the reel being as thick as a tolerably-stout whippcord, gradually tapering to a thickness not much greater than that of a stout thread. Between this reel-line and the hook comes the gut or casting line, of the substance called catgut, as fine almost as horsehair and nearly transparent. In fly fishing, at least three yards of gut are generally used between the hook and the winch-line.

Very fine silk winch-lines are used generally in bottom fishing, the taper lines in fly fishing, and a stouter line for trolling, &c. But the old school of fishermen on the River Lea seldom use a running line when fishing for the smaller fish; they make fast a short line to the top joint of the rod, play the fish by means of the great length of the rod, and when they wish to land the fish they slip off the butt joints one at a time till they have a short handy rod to lift the fish out with.

REELS or WINCHES are generally used, though the Lea fishermen, who, as a rule, use no running line, of course dispense with them. The object of the reel is that the angler may have wound round it a good supply of line more than is usually re-



REELS.

quired, so as to let it run out when he has a powerful fish on the hook, or when, as in fly fishing, he wishes to throw the fly upon the water some distance from him. The reel is fixed by means of rings or screws upon the butt or handle of the rod.

FLOATS are used in bottom fishing to keep the bait suspended.



a little above the bed of the river or pond. They are made of quill or of cork, or something that will float on the water and support a light weight. Floats are often very gorgeously coloured, but the nearer they are in tint to the water the better. Some say the colour of the float catches the angler's eye, but we say the angler's eye should never be off his float when his bait is in the water. Those shown in the engraving are three quill floats of common shape.

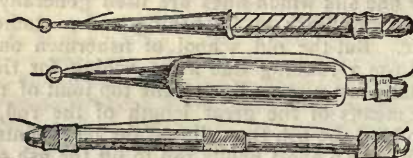
FIG. I.



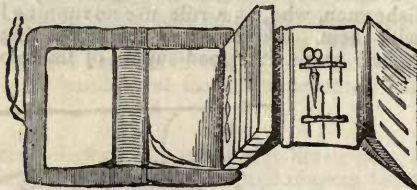
FIG. II.



PLUMMETS.



QUILL FLOATS.



ANGLER'S POCKET BOOK

HOOKS are made of various sizes and shapes. The angler has to see that his hooks are made of good, well-tempered steel which will not bend nor break, and that they have fine, sharp points. Hooks, lines, floats, &c., may all be kept in an angler's pocket-book like that shown in the above engraving.

OTHER ARTICLES required by the angler are split shot to be placed on the line a little above the hook, so to keep the bait near the bottom of the water; boxes, bags, or kettles to contain bait of different kinds; a landing net; a gaff or hook for landing pike or salmon, and fish too large to go conveniently into a landing net; a plummet, to ascertain the depth of the water; a disgorging, to extricate the hook from the mouth of the fish; a basket (called a creel) or a bag to put the fish in when caught; a sharp knife; and various other small articles.



## Bait.

Baits are also of various kinds. There is the ground bait, which is thrown in at the spot where the angler intends working to attract the fish. A mixture of bread, oatmeal, and bran well kneaded together forms the ordinary ground bait for roach, bream, carp, chub, &c. A mixture of clay and bran rolled round a stone is another ground bait—the stone being intended to keep the mixture from being washed away. Chopped worms, clay, bran, and sheep's or bullock's blood mixed into a paste is another good ground bait. The angler may take it as a general rule that ground bait need only be used in quiet streams or in ponds. In swift water it would be no use whatever. And the ground bait used to draw the fish to the spot should be sparingly used, or they will not trouble about tasting the bait upon the hook.

Of baits for the hook, the principal are worms, gentles, beetles, caterpillars, and pastes of various kinds. Also for the more voracious kinds of fish, such as pike, &c., the smaller fish, such as dace, roach, and minnows, are extremely useful. For fish that seek their prey near the surface of the water, flies, real and artificial, are best.

Lob worms are those commonly found in digging up the earth; they commonly reach the length of four or five inches. Trout take them greedily, so do perch, bream, and eels. Red worms and brandlings are found in or near manure heaps. The brandlings are striped, but the red worms are smooth and evenly-coloured throughout. They are all good bait for trout, perch, roach, dace, barbel, carp, bream, tench, &c., but before being used they should be scoured for some time.

To scour worms, put them in an earthen jar filled with damp moss; cover the jar so that they cannot escape. Take them out every day or two and put them in fresh moss, or the old moss well washed, and in a few days they will become far more lively on the hook, brighter in colour, and tougher; in fact, more attractive in every way than when first taken from the earth.

The ash-grub is found in the rotten bark of a tree which has

been felled for some time ; it is an excellent bait for grayling, chub, dace, or roach, and may be used all the year round. It should be kept in wheat bran.

The cabbage worm is a good bait for chub, dace, roach, or trout.

The locality of the crab-tree worm is indicated by its name. It is a good bait for roach, dace, trout, and chub.

Flag or dock worms inhabit the fibres of flag roots in old pits or ponds. They are excellent baits for tench, bream, bleak, grayling, carp, perch, dace, and roach.

Gentles, or maggots, are bred by hanging up a piece of meat until it putrifies ; they should be kept on flesh, and when they have arrived at their full size, a little bran and damp sand may be put in the vessel in which they are immured, for the purpose of scouring them ; they will be fit for use in a day or two, and are tempting bait for all kinds of fish. When putting a gentle on the hook, you must insert the hook at one end of it, and bring it out at the other, and then draw the gentle back until it completely covers the point of the hook.

The tag-tail may be procured in meadows or chalky lands, after rain, or in the morning, during the months of March or April ; it is accounted a good bait for trout in cloudy weather, or when the water is muddy.

White grubs, or white bait, are much larger than gentles, and may be found in sandy and meadow lands.

Wasp-grubs may be taken from the nest ; they require to be hardened in a warm oven, and always prove a good bait for all such fish as bite at gentles.

Paste baits are made of fine white bread, or bread with a portion of tasty cheese in it, or bread dipped in the liquor in which greaves have been boiled, or boiled wheat. All the substances must be crushed and mixed till they become a firm, tenacious paste, not likely to be washed from the hook in tolerably still waters.

When working up paste baits, be particularly careful to have



clean hands, and knead your pastes thoroughly, so that all the materials may be well incorporated.

Sheeps' blood and saffron make a good paste for roach, bleak, &c.

For barbel, an excellent paste may be made by dipping the crumb of new white bread in the liquor in which chandler's greaves have been boiled, adding a little of the greaves, and working it up till it is stiff.

Being thus equipped with rod, line, bait, &c. let us suppose the angler to have arrived at the water-side. His first business is to put his rod together. Then having attached a plummet to the line, he ascertains the depth, and adjusts his float so that the hook when baited will be near, but not resting on, the bed of the pond or river. Then the hook is baited.

We assume that the young angler is out for a day's bottom fishing, in pursuit of roach, dace, bream, carp, gudgeon, tench, barbel, &c. Let us consider how to take those fish.

ROACH do not generally lie in rapid streams, except in the autumn months, and are always out of condition until the middle of July. Seek out a gravelly bed in a soft-flowing deep stream. The home of the roach is on the side of deep streams and under bridges. In rivers they bite all the year round, in ponds only in summer.



ROACH.

This fish is one generally considered easily taken, but it is a great error to suppose so. For roach fishing the rod should



long and light, the line of extremely fine gut, and the hook of the size known in tackle-sellers' shops as No. 9 or 10.

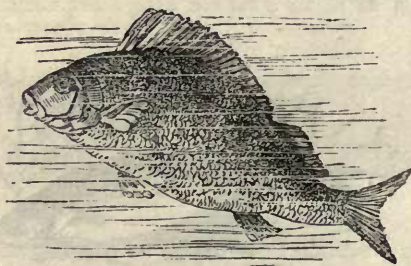
A paste made of a second day's bread, slightly dipped in water, with a little vermilion added to it, so as to make it the colour of salmon, is the best bait for them.

Hold the rod so low that the end of it is not more than fourteen inches above the float, which should have shot attached to it, in order that little more than an eighth of it may ride above the surface, as this species of fish bite so delicately that without you pay the closest attention to your float you will lose four bites out of six. Use a single line, and have a landing-net handy, otherwise you run great risk of losing your fish.

Besides the paste above described, the roach, when he is in a biting humour, will freely take gentles, small worms, &c. In fact, most of the ordinary baits.

**THE PERCH.**—This fish is a bold, voracious one, and freely takes a bait. Strong tackle is necessary in angling for it—a gut or twisted hair line, a cork float, and a No. 7 hook.

Marsh, brandling, cabbage, and well-scoured red-worms, maggots, and wasp-grubs are excellent bait for this fish.

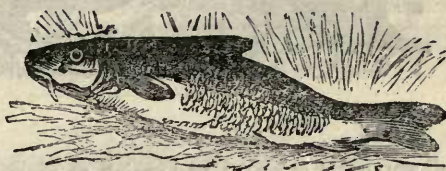


PERCH.

Ground baits of stewed malt grains, or lob-worms, cut to pieces, should be thrown in the water.

Perch lie near bridges, mill ponds, and locks in navigable rivers and canals, and in other streams, near rushes, dark, still holes, and eddies, and gravelly parts of rivers.

**THE GUDGEON.**—The gudgeon is a very bold-biting fish, and gives much amusement to the angler. It is in season from April to October, and may be taken at any time of the day,



GUDGEON.

particularly in dull weather. The best bait is a blood-worm, and the tackle should be a fine gut or hair line, light cork float, and a No. 9 or 10 hook.

Gudgeons frequent the shallows, where the river is free from weeds, with a gravelly or sandy bottom, which must be often stirred with a rake made for that purpose.

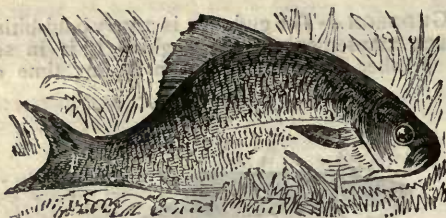
In gudgeon fishing be careful to get the exact depth of the water, and let your bait be close to the ground. In the rivers Thames, Lea, and Colne gudgeons are very numerous, and sometimes great quantities are taken.

**THE BREAM.**—The bream is principally found in lakes and still rivers. It may be taken in the summer and autumn, but, as it spawns during June and July, it is best to angle for it from the end of July to the end of September; and in these months from sunrise till eight o'clock in the morning, and from five o'clock till dusk in the evening. In some books on angling the angler is recommended to fish for bream and other coarse fish in April and May; but by a recent Act of Parliament that is illegal between the 14th of March and the 16th of June, except in private preserves.

Use a gut line, quill float, and No. 10 hook, and let the bait



touch the bottom. The baits necessary are well-scoured red-worms, maggots, flag-worms, and brandlings.



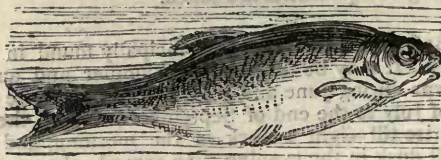
BREAM.

Use lob-worms cut in pieces, and grains, as ground baits before you commence angling.

The angler should be very silent, keep from the edge of the water as much as possible, and strike the instant the float is drawn under the surface of the water.

**THE DACE.**—The dace is found in most rivers. It is a handsome fish, and is generally accounted light and nourishing food.

The hook should be a size larger than for roach, but in all other respects the tackle may be the same. Use a ground-bait of bran and clay mixed, and throw it into the water frequently while angling.



DACE.

Dace will take red-worms, maggots, wasp-grubs, greaves, and a paste made of cheese and honey; they are partial to red-



worms in the spring, and in the summer, if you use gentles, put two at a time on the hook ; a small piece of greaves with a gentle is also a very good bait.

Dace continue in season till October, after which month they seldom bite unless the weather is very warm and mild.

THE CARP is an extremely cunning fish ; in fact, from its extreme craftiness, it is by some called the freshwater fox. It may be found in lakes, ponds, and rivers. In running waters it frequents the deepest and quietest parts of the stream, especially if the surface of the water is well shaded with water-lilies or similar aquatic vegetation.



CARP.

The best time to fish for the carp is early morning, or towards sunset, as it seldom bites in the middle of the day unless some soft showers of rain have been falling. Use a long, light rod, with reel, and a line of the finest description, and bait with a small red worm, or gentles, or wasp-grubs. Approach the spot where you think the carp may be found with the utmost caution, sheltering yourself behind a bush or some reeds, so that the cunning water-fox may not even see your shadow. If you have ascertained the depth of the water beforehand so much the better. Drop in your hook and bait so quietly that the artful fish may think it is only some small matter that has fallen from the bank, or bush, or reeds above him.

THE TENCH sometimes reaches the weight of three or four pounds. It is dark in colour, almost black on the back, on the sides a dull green with a tinge of gold. When caught it feels

very slimy to the touch. Some people consider it good eating, but that is all *a matter of taste*. In many places tench are so abundant that a great number of them may be taken in the course of a day's angling.

They generally feed from daylight till nine o'clock in the morning, and from five until dark in the evening.

The bait they like best is a well-scoured marsh-worm, not too large, with a No. 7 hook.

The tench thrives best in ponds where the bottom is composed of mud or clay, but at times they may be caught in rivers.

They will take the same baits and be found in the same haunts as the carp. They will bite freely in the summer months, especially when the days have been dark, warin, and muggy, after fine mild showers. They spawn in May.



TENCH.

The tench, like the carp, will live a long time out of the water. The angler should learn the haunts of the fish ere he angles for them.

He should know the depth of the water, and whether the bottom is a clayey, muddy, or gravelly one, for he must fish an inch or two from the bottom, and suit his ground bait to it.

They are not easily met in rivers, except where they are preserved. In ponds, however, they are plentiful enough, and afford good sport from June to October.



**EELS.**—The eel can always be found in the mud of the river or pond ; the bottom fisher seldom troubles himself much about them, but they are to be found more or less in every brook, river, and pond in the United Kingdom.

Eel weirs were once common in many parts of Ireland, and in the fen countries they are yet preserved and well known.

Every angler knows the haunts of the eel, how he hides under big stones, in holes, under bridges, by half-sunken timbers, under the roots of trees, and hosts of similar places.



EEL.

Bobbing at night for them is a very favourite amusement. It is done by stringing large lob-worms completely through with a needle threaded with worsted yarn till you have a couple of yards or more so threaded. Then make a coil of that string of worms and fasten it so that it shall not come untied ; attach it to a stout string fastened to the end of a pole, and then drop the tempting bait into some likely pool.

The person holding the pole soon feels the sharp tug of the eel, who holds so tenaciously that he submits to be pulled out of the water rather than lose his prize.

The moment he is safe on shore clap your foot upon his body and with your knife decapitate him, which will speedily -ut a stop to his contortions and twistings.

**MINNOWS.**—Nearly all rivers produce a great quantity of these lively little fish ; they seldom grow above two inches in length ; they rank high as a bait for trout or perch ; use the silvery bright ones in preference to the big-bellied yellow ones.

To catch them you must place your float so as the bait may pass on or near the ground, then drop your bait in gently on the shallows near mill tails, or any other eddy where there is a



THE MINNOW.

gravelly bottom, and strike the moment they bite; put them in your kettle as soon as caught, by which means you may keep them alive till you want them for bait.



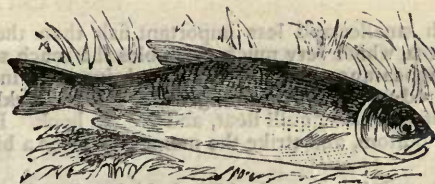
SUMMER SPORT.

THE CHUB in summer delights in scours, tumbling bays, and deep and rapid parts of rivers; and, in the autumn and winter, in the little holes under banks, where the stream is sheltered by overhanging willows.



It is a bold biting fish, and may be caught all the year round ; in summer it bites during the whole of the day, but best in the morning and evening ; it may also be taken in the night time.

The baits adopted for chub are maggots, red-worms, gentles, bullock's brains, and pith from the backbone of a bullock.



CHUB.

Use running tackle, gut line, quill float, and No. 8 or 9 hook. Strike the moment you perceive a bite, and let the fish run, giving it plenty of line, otherwise it will break loose, as it usually darts furiously away to the opposite side the moment it is struck.

Amongst other freshwater fish which afford good sport to the angler may be mentioned—

**THE BARBEL.**—This fish takes its name from the peculiar beard or wattles which hang from its mouth. It is not reckoned a very choice fish for the table, but is much sought after by



BARBEL.

anglers in consequence of the sport it affords. They swim in shoals, and are fond of the deep currents of bridges, weirs, and locks ; they love to lie and feed on the insects borne down by the current.

A day's fishing for barbel in July, August, and September, on the Trent or Thames, is an event to be remembered. London anglers are very skilful in capturing barbel.

A much smaller and less important fish than the barbel is THE RUDD, which very much resembles the roach so far as its external appearance is concerned. It thrives best in ponds. It will take red-worms, paste, and gentles, and the tackle requisite consists of a gut line, quill float, and No. 12 hook. Let the bait touch the bottom, and strike the moment you see a bite.

THE RUFFE is a fierce-looking, bold biter, and resembles a small perch. They may be caught during the whole of the summer months, and afford excellent sport to the young angler, and, wherever one is caught, be sure there are plenty more. The bait a small worm or gentle.

THE LOACH is not a pleasant fish to look at. He has a bullet-head, and his heavy shoulders give him a clumsy look. This fish will bite freely at a worm, and will not despise gentles.

THE LAMPREY belongs to the eel tribe, and is caught in a similar manner. The gut of a fowl, or other garbage, may be substituted for the worm. A small lamprey is a good bait for several kinds of fish if put on the hook with the worm.

THE JACK OR PIKE—Resembles no other fish in form or colour ; the head is flat and hard on the top, the jaws large, and full of sharp, strong teeth, as are likewise the throat and tongue, which inclining inwards, renders it impracticable for any other animal to escape from its hungry fangs ; the colour of its back and sides is grey, mottled with large, irregular spots of a sandy-green hue ; the belly is lighter, approaching to white.

This fish is one of the best flavoured and highly esteemed of the freshwater tribe, except the trout.

It spawns in March or April, and, although generally reckoned good from Midsummer to the end of the year, it is in its prime in September and October only.

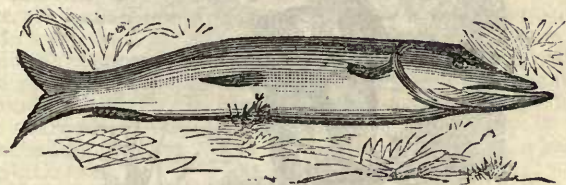


They are numerous in many rivers, canals, lakes, and ponds, &c., and are commonly caught up to eight or ten pounds in weight; some grow much larger, and have been known to reach thirty or forty pounds, and when so large they are called pike.

The baits used in fishing for it are roach, dace, gudgeon, minnows, chub, bleak, and young frogs. A bait ought to weigh from one to four ounces.

It is a most voracious fish, and when on the feed bites eagerly, being seldom lost from any other cause than not allowing it sufficient time after it runs with the bait to gorge it.

In its food it is not at all particular, as it will take anything down, from a young duck to a leaden plummet.



THE JACK.

There are several methods of catching the pike or jack; namely, by

TROLLING with what is called a gorge-hook, on which a dead fish is placed. The gorge-hook is a double hook fastened to some twisted brass wire, round which and the shanks of the hook a piece of lead about the thickness of a quill has been cast. This lead should not be so long as the body of the fish you intend to use as bait. The gorge-hook is baited by means of a needle with which the wire is drawn through the body of the bait, the end of the wire coming out near the middle of the fork of the tail, while the double hooks lie close to the mouth, with the barbs turning upward but not projecting very much. Between the brass wire and the reel-line should be some strong gimp with two or three swivels attached, which prevent the line

from getting in a tangle by twisting when the bait is drawn through the water.

The rod in trolling should be short and strong ; the rings few in number, and larger than those used for ordinary fishing. The bait is swung out as far as possible into the water, and then the angler, holding the rod in his left hand, draws in the line with his right, with a succession of regular pulls, bringing



JACK CAUGHT.

in three or four feet of it at a time. This gives the dead bait the appearance of being alive, though feeble, and master Jack, thinking it an easy prey, makes for it, and carries it off to his



usual lurking place, where he must be allowed some time to swallow it. When you fancy he has accomplished that feat, strike sharply to fix the hooks in him, play him till he is weary, bring him to the bank, and let him slide into the landing net, and then transfer him to the green sward.

But beware how you put your fingers into his mouth to extricate the hooks, for his teeth are constructed on strict business principles, namely, to penetrate as deeply as possible; and he *can bite!*

Some modern anglers have, what is called, "spoon bait," that is, a piece of bright metal shaped like the bowl of a spoon, and armed with several hooks. This bright object arouses either the hunger or the anger of the jack who makes for it, and seldom escapes one of the sharp-pointed barbs.

Some fish for pike with live bait on a single hook. In this case, the hook is passed either through the lips of the bait, or underneath the front part of the fin on the back. Others use a double hook, the gimp, to which it is tied, being passed underneath the skin of the bait near the gills, and brought out behind the back fin, the bend of the hooks being brought up to the point where the gimp first entered. The gimp is then attached to the line. Both for live and dead bait, a baiting needle is used.

The live bait is thrown in with the addition of a float, which keeps it from sinking to the bottom; it is then allowed to go as it pleases, till the jack stops its progression.

Artificial baits of many kinds can be procured at most tackle shops.

The best time for jack fishing is late in the year, when the water begins to be tolerably free from weeds, which, at an earlier period of the year, might entangle the line, and lose the angler his fish.

Though the jack or pike is the trollers usual prey, trolling is sometimes practised for salmon, or the large trout that are found in the Thames, or in the Scottish lakes. In this latter case, a large minnow, or a loach, is the best bait; in pike fishing, a roach is commonly used. But to take salmon or trout, the best and most scientific way is by fly fishing.

## Fly Fishing.

The fish most frequently taken by the artificial fly are trout and salmon. Dace too frequently rise to the fly, and being lively little fish, afford good sport to beginners in fly fishing.

The rod and line have already been described, but the art of throwing—so that the line shall be fully extended, and the fly fall lightly upon the water—cannot be very well described ; but one of the things a learner should have firmly impressed upon his mind is, not to try with too long a line at first. When he can manage a line the length of his rod, so as to make the fly fall near the spot he intends, then he may gradually practice with a longer line.

It is generally recommended to fish up the stream, drawing the fly down, and across the current of the water. This is natural, for a drowning fly that has fallen on the water cannot swim up stream, though it may, by struggling, get nearer the river bank.

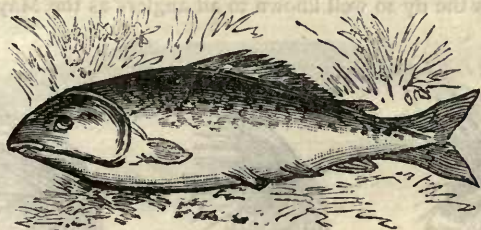
The flies are best bought ready made. There are some scores known to anglers. Those shown in the illustration are types of many varieties.

And, as the trout is most commonly fished for with the fly, he shall have the honour of first place, even before his large and lordly kinsman, the salmon.

THE TROUT.—This fish is the grand object of all angler's ambition, especially those who delight in fly-fishing. It is a fish highly valued in all nations ; it is a clean, aristocratic fish, that revels not in mud and dirty streams, but loves those that leap and rush over a clear, gravelly bed ; and when the verdant spring comes out in her daintiest apparel, Master Trout comes out with her ; when the daisy peeps out, and the violet perfumes the air, then does Master Trout show speckled body in the shallows and rough streams ; but, during the heat of summer, he runs into deeper water and shady pools. At times he frequents the sharpest rivers, water-falls, and mill-falls, then he will feed upon insects, worms, and flies, or very small fish,



which he pursues with such rapidity as renders it impossible for them to escape.



THE TROUT.

The River Wandle is celebrated for the beauty and rich flavour of this fish, as well as many others. There, when in season, they are of a pink tint, and the large ones, when boiled, cut and taste like salmon.

**TROUT FLIES.**—Flies are so cheap to purchase at the dealer's, and so difficult for amateurs to tie properly, that we recommend our readers to buy what they require. We give, however, a description of those represented on the engraving.

(a.) The wing of the woodcock, with a single turn of red hackle or landrail feather, dressed with yellow silk freely exposed on the body; but, for fishing in dark-coloured waters, dress the fly with scarlet thread.

(b.) The ear of the hare, body, with a corn bunting, or wing of a chaffinch; the wing of the woodcock will also do, if made of a small, light-coloured feather taken from the inside of the wing.

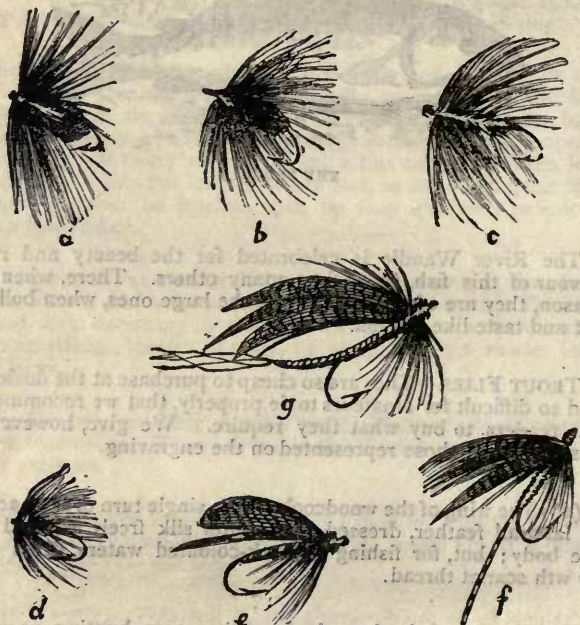
(c.) The wing the same as the last fly, with a single turn of a soft, black hen hackle, or a feather from the starling's shoulder, dressed with dark-coloured silk.

(d.) Is a fly called the golden palmer.

(e.) Is that of the stone-fly. *which he pursues with such vigour that he is often seen to catch them in clouds*

(f.) Is the fly called March brown.

(g.) Is the fly so well known to all anglers as the May-fly.



TROUT FLIES.

THE SALMON is undoubtedly prince of fishes, but the rivers he frequents are so strictly preserved that the killing of him is a most expensive luxury. The streams of the north, south, and west of the island are his haunts; but the sluggish waters of Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex have no attraction for him. The salmon is a migratory fish, spending part of his

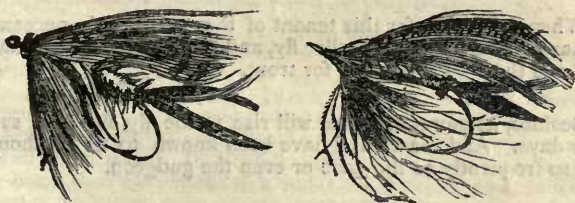


time in salt water, and then running as far as possible up some swift river for spawning purposes.



THE SALMON.

The rod used in salmon fishing is longer than the trout rod, and requires to be used with both hands. The flies, too, are larger and whipped upon much stouter hooks than those with which the trout is ensnared. They are of gaudier colours, too; crimson, gold, and purple being freely employed, the artificial fly when dressed being as a rule a much more gorgeous object than the fish is likely to meet with in England, Ireland, or Scotland. In Wales the fish are said to prefer flies of less gaudy tints. The illustration shows two—typical of many more.



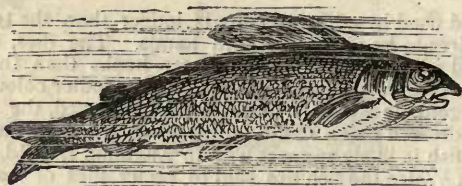
SALMON FLIES.

THE GRAYLING.—This fish has of late years become a favourite with fly fishers in the late autumn, when trout and

salmon are unseasonable. It takes the fly freely in most states of the weather, and being a game fish affords good sport to the fisher.

The grayling is an extremely beautiful fish, and inhabits most of the clear, rapid rivers which have a sandy or gravelly bottom, and its favourite haunts are the sides of the stream.

The grayling will take caddis, marsh, and dew-worms, flies, both natural and artificial, and white grubs. Handle your tackle skilfully and gently, as the fish's mouth is exceedingly tender, and easily gives way with the jerk of the hook. The principal months in which to angle for it are September, October, and November, when it is in its best condition.



GRAYLING.

When fly fishing for this tenant of the stream, it is necessary to have a fine gut, and smaller fly, and be more ready with hand and eye than when angling for trout.

Besides, as aforesaid, dace will rise to the fly on warm summer days. And roach also have been known to do so, though not so frequently as the dace or even the gudgeon.

Very fine tackle is necessary in throwing a fly for trout, grayling, or dace, especially in England, where, as a rule, our streams are very clear.

And so, with these practical instructions finished, we pass on to another part of the subject—namely, the times when it is lawful to fish.



In order that the finny tribes may increase and multiply, it has been thought proper to enact by law that they shall not be caught during their spawning time. The period during which it is unlawful to take fish is called the close time.

In the various rivers of Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England the salmon and trout come into fit condition for taking at different times, therefore the beginning and the end of the angling season varies in different places or districts, the exact time being settled by the conservators of fisheries for the various districts.

For a long time the coarse fish taken by bottom fishing had little (if any) protection, but at length their numbers so diminished that it was found necessary to appoint a

## CLOSE-TIME FOR COARSE FISH.

By the Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1878, a close-time for "freshwater fish" (which are defined to include all kinds of fish, other than pollen, trout, and char, which live in fresh water, except those kinds which migrate to or from the open sea) is fixed from 15th March to 15th June, both inclusive, for all parts of England and Wales except Norfolk and Suffolk. The penalty for taking or selling freshwater fish in that period is £2 for a first, and £5 for a subsequent conviction. The close season, however, does not apply to fish taken in private waters by leave of the owner, in public waters by leave of a Board of Conservators, or taken for bait or for scientific purposes.

Fishery districts may be wholly or partially exempted with the sanction of the Secretary of State, and the Avon and Stour, Avon and Erme, Kent and Leven, Wye and Towy fishery districts have been so exempted; also the Severn district as regards pike; and as regards other fish than grayling, certain parts of the district. In Norfolk and Suffolk local close-times have been fixed for various fish under the Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act, 1877, from March 1st to June 30th. For eels a close-time exists (so far as fixed engines in salmon rivers are concerned) in England from January 1st to June 24th; in Ireland, with one or two exceptions, from January 11th to June 30th.

The bye-laws made by the Thames Conservancy Board, whose

jurisdiction extends from Cricklade in Wilts to Yantlet creek in Kent, regulate the kind of nets and their mesh, and the size of fish that may be lawfully captured. No nets, except for bait, may be used above Richmond Bridge.

The minimum size of fish that may be captured is—pike, 18 in.; trout, 16 in.; barbel, 13 in.; chub, bream, and carp, 10 in.; grayling, 9 in.; roach, plaice, and also tench and perch, 8 in.; flounders, soles, and whiting, 7 in.; dace and rubb, 6 in.;



THE PLEASURE OF FISHING.

smelt,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in.; gudgeon, 4 in. The close-time for freshwater fish under the Freshwater Fishery Act, as given above, applies



to the Thames, and so presumably does the close-time for trout and salmon. The board, however, has fixed a close-time for salmon, trout, and char from 11th September to 31st March. Angling for eels is also prohibited during the fresh-water close-time. For smelts the close-time is from 25th March to 25th July, and lampreys from 1st April to 23rd August. The use of night-lines and fishing at night are prohibited above Richmond Bridge.

## Final Hints to Anglers.

It is generally understood that, when two or three persons are angling in the same stream, there shall be a distance of thirty yards between them.

If the learner wishes to become a complete angler, he must use fine tackle, as the skill and care which such tackle require will soon make him a master of the art.

When the tackle breaks, the angler must not mourn over the accident, but do his best to remedy it by speedily repairing the damage, and resuming his sport.

The angler must wear strong boots or shoes, and keep his feet dry, unless he wishes to become an interesting invalid.

And if he values his health, he will abstain from drinking water out of rivers or ponds when he is in a perspiration, or feels parched with thirst.

If the weather is very cold, or the wind sets very strongly from the east or north, the angler will meet with but little sport.

Heavy showers of rain or hail, and thunder storms, are likewise extremely prejudicial to his amusement, and as, in the winter months, few opportunities are afforded for the exercise

of his talents out of doors, he should, while snugly screened from the pinching blasts, attend to all the little repairs which may be necessary to his tackle.

Such care and attention during unfavourable seasons may add to the angler's success, when he can once more follow his favourite recreation.





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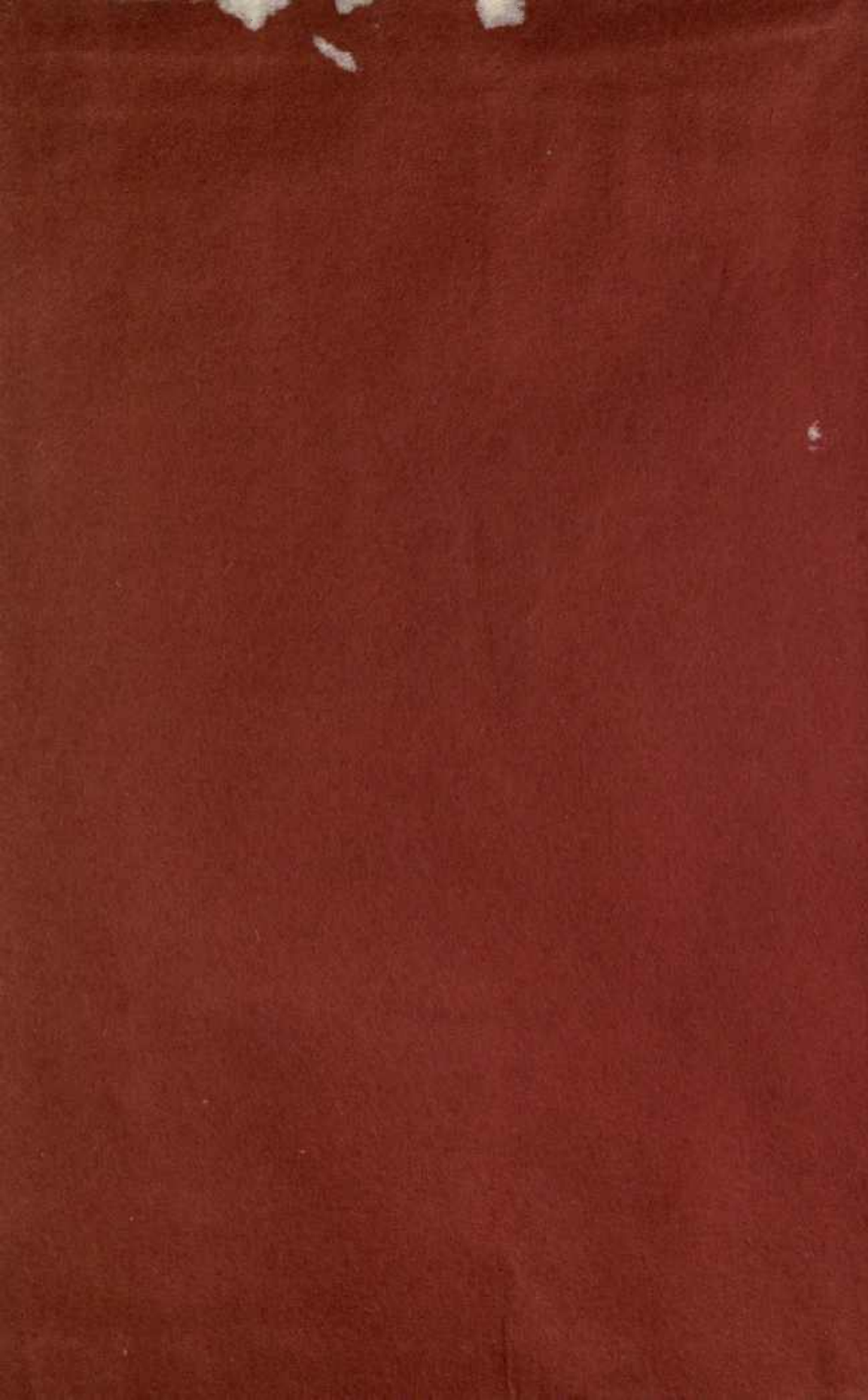
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